



The change from GNP to GDP reflected a more appropriate measure for U.S. aggregate production, particularly in short-term monitoring and analysis of the economy. Moving towards this as the primary measure of production was advantageous for several reasons. GDP was the primary measure of production in the *System of National Accounts*, the set of international guidelines for economic accounting. Many other countries had adopted GDP as their featured measure, allowing for reliability in comparisons of economic activity across countries. It was also consistent in coverage with other economic indicators such as employment and productivity. Additionally, issues with underlying source data for certain income estimates provided challenges in measuring GNP. However, GNP continues to be a relevant and key aggregate, proving particularly useful for analyses related to sources and uses of income.

For more on the changeover from GNP to GDP, we present a reprint of the [August 1991 Survey article](#) on the topic.